

REMARKS

This case has been reviewed and analyzed in view of the Final Office Action dated 31 October 2002. Responsive to the rejections made by the Examiner in that Final Office Action, Claim 1 is further amended for prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that such amendment of Claim 1 clarifies even more Applicant's invention for this Patent Application.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner again rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Pu et al. reference, but in view of the newly-cited Yokoyama or Trovato et al. references. In setting forth this rejection, the Examiner acknowledged that Pu et al. fails to disclose a voice synthesizer, but cited the other references for disclosing such feature. The Examiner then concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the feature into the Pu et al. system to arrive at Applicant's claimed system.

Applicant's navigation system is one which economically and efficiently provides the user with real time condition-updated route data. It does so, among other things, by transmitting both phonic and data signal content across a common communication link, and by maintaining active control to minimize the durations over which a mobile user's navigation requester must remain connected to an information center by that communication link. As newly-amended independent Claim 1 now more clearly recites,

Applicant's navigation system includes among its features "a navigation requester having a satellite positioning device and a second communication device," wherein the second communication device is "operable to automatically terminate a connection with...[a] first communication device" of the information center "responsive to route information being completely received thereacross." This frees various resources where possible to support quicker and more responsive operation of the navigation requester in providing such functions as route tracking and voice-synthesized messaging for the user.

The primarily cited Pu, et al. reference fails to disclose the full combination of these and other features clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims. As the Examiner readily acknowledged, Pu, et al. nowhere discloses a voice-synthesized messaging feature. Nor does the reference anywhere disclose at the user's mobile navigation component such capability "to automatically terminate a connection with said first communication device [at an information center] responsive to route information being completely received thereacross," as newly-amended independent Claim 1 now more clearly recites. To the contrary, the reference discloses a collaborative operation not only between the user's mobile navigation system 102 and a remote server 114, but also with other remotely located resources connected to that server 114 through the Internet 118.

The reference boasts highly dynamic formulation of a route between start and destination parameters provided by the user, whereby the server 114 queries the user for

various route-specific information and seeks to harness “the distribution of the knowledge base” over the Internet 118 (Column 8; lines 24-25) in formulating the optimum route. The reference even contemplates circumstances where “none of the real-time data” required for route formulation “is provided directly from navigation server 114, but from other resources available on the Internet 118,” (Column 8; lines 21-23). Such a distributed, externally-consulted approach to route formulation necessarily presumes highly adaptive variation in the duration over which connection is maintained between the navigation system 102 and server 114, and in the nature and degree of interactive communication required over that connection. This strongly precludes the navigation system 102 from itself exercising the control necessary “to automatically terminate a connection with” the server 114, as newly-amended Claim 1 recites.

The Yokoyama and Trovato, et al. references were each secondarily cited for disclosing a voice synthesizing function. Note, however, that these references also fail to disclose such other of Applicant’s claimed features as the navigation requester’s second communication device being “operable to automatically terminate a connection with said first communication device responsive to route information being completely received thereacross.” As the data exchange diagram shown in FIG. 7 of the reference plainly illustrates, Yokoyama prescribes maintaining a connection between the navigation apparatus 100 and information center 150 for the entire duration over which the

navigation apparatus 100 travels from a start position to the intended destination. The information center 150 provides continual point-to-point route guidance to the navigation apparatus 100 during this time. The reference, therefore, not only obviates the need to terminate the connection upon receipt of route information, it specifically forbids as much.

The Trovato, et al. reference discloses a self-contained laptop computer-based navigation system. Route generation, route tracking, and all other functions are derived and carried out locally; hence, there remains no connection with a remote information center to even be terminated.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the cited Pu, et al., Yokoyama, and Trovato, et al. references, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

The other references cited but not used in the rejection have been considered, but are found to be further remote from Applicant's navigation system when patentability considerations are taken into account.

MR2387-229

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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